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(54) **INPUT/OUTPUT DEVICE FOR CONNECTION AND DISCONNECTION OF ACTIVE LINES**

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(51) **Int. Cl.**⁷ **G06F 13/00**

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **710/107; 710/102; 710/103; 710/2; 710/62; 710/64; 710/131; 361/58; 361/424**

(58) **Field of Search** **710/101, 102, 710/103, 2, 62, 64, 137; 361/58, 424**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

There is provided an input/output device having of not exerting any adverse influence on other expansion devices connected to a system bus at the time of insertion or removal. An expansion device **800** comprises an electronic circuit **400** and a MOS switch **300**, and is connected to a system bus (BUS) via a connector having long and short pins. The expansion device **800** two power supply systems, namely a stable power supply **250** and an unstable power supply **260**. At the time of insertion or removal of the expansion device **800**, power is provided to the MOS switch **300** and a high impedance maintaining circuit from the stable power supply via a pair of long pins, so as to reliably place the MOS switch **300** in a high impedance state, inside the expansion device the high impedance maintaining circuit **350** drives an open/close control terminal, and power is provided to the electronic circuit **400** from the unstable power supply **260**. At the time of insertion or removal, adverse influence is not exerted on the signal transmission on the system bus, and effects of load variation on the main power supply are reduced.

4 Claims, 9 Drawing Sheets

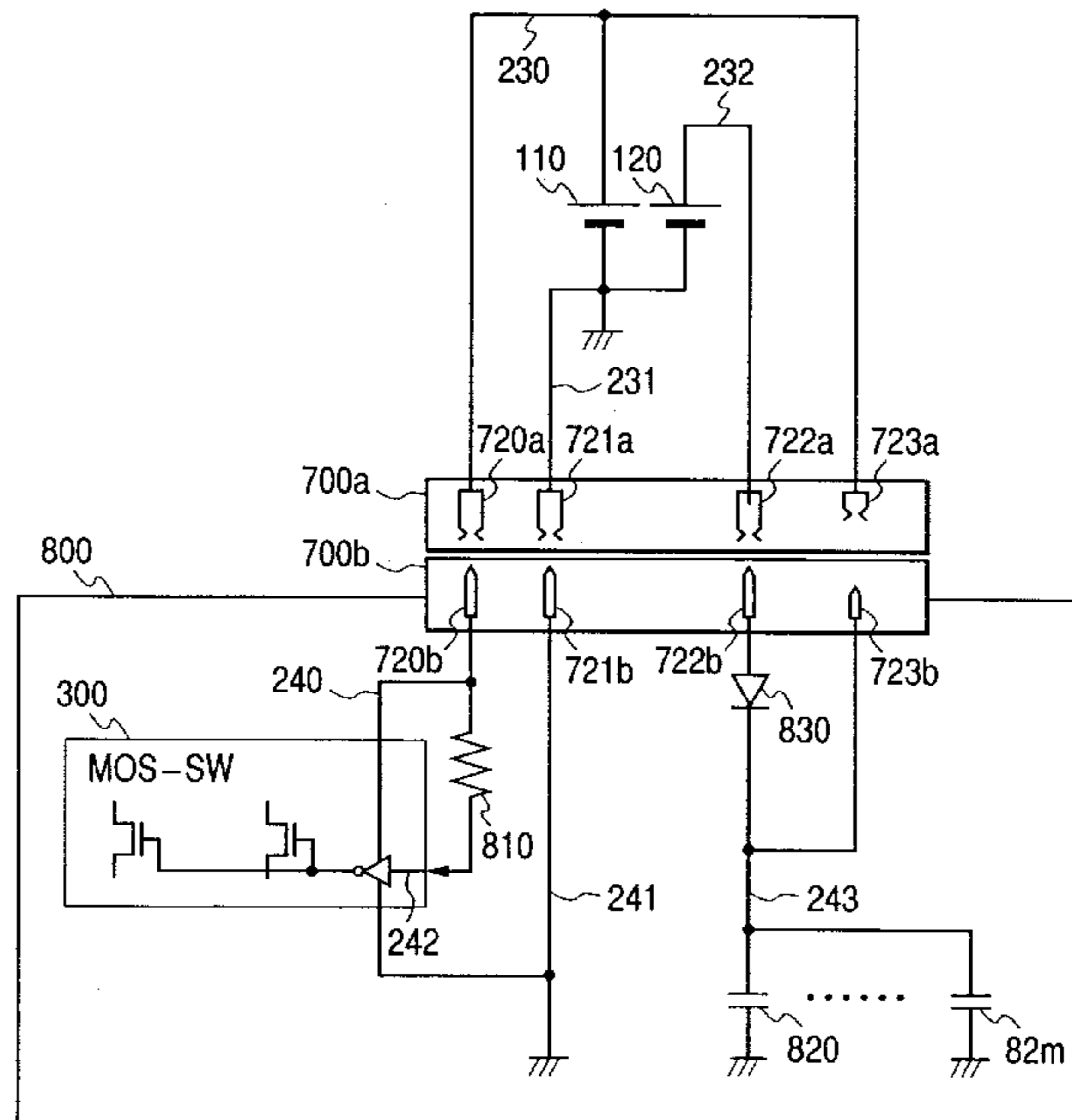


FIG. 1(a)

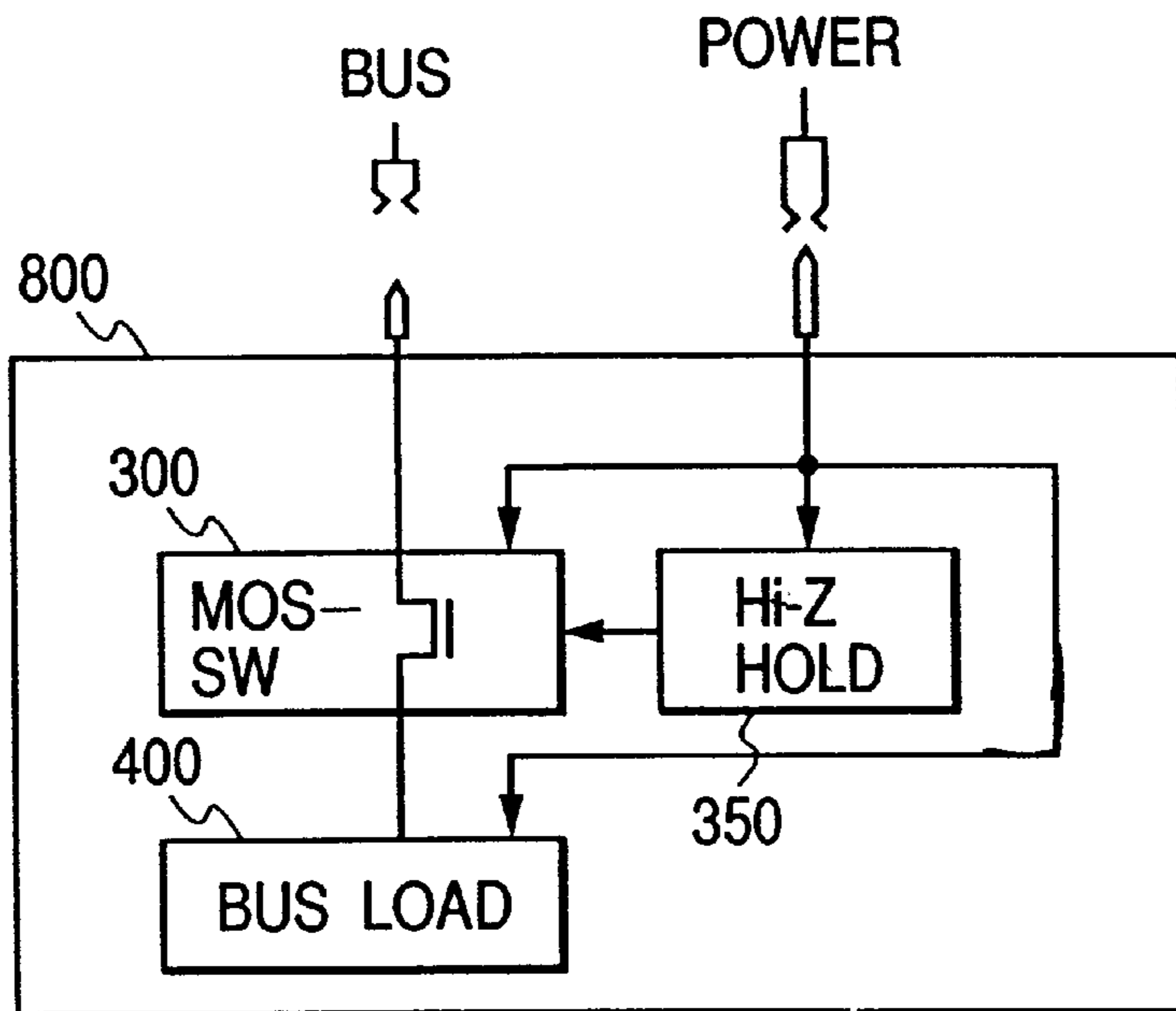


FIG. 1(b)

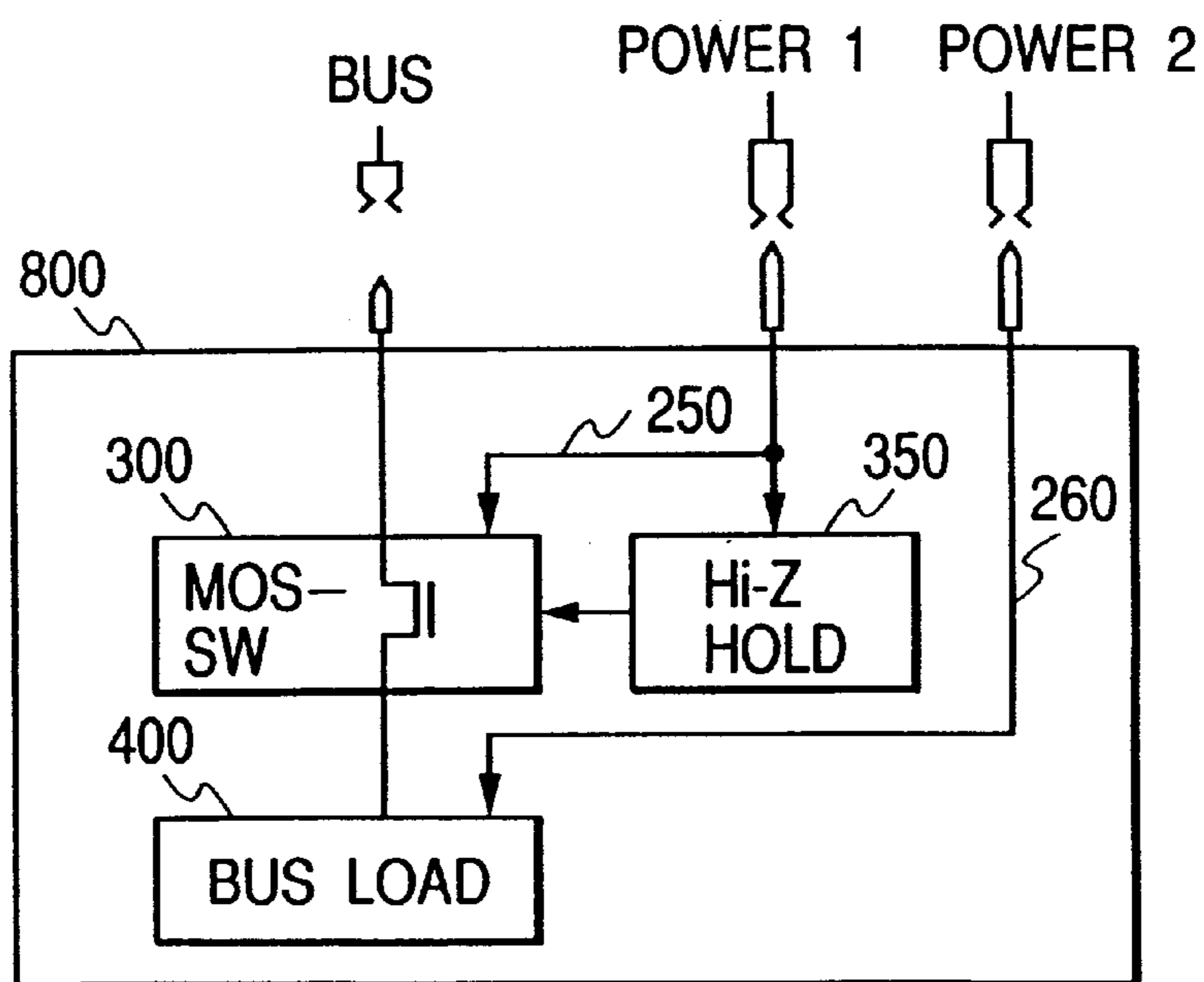


FIG. 1(c)

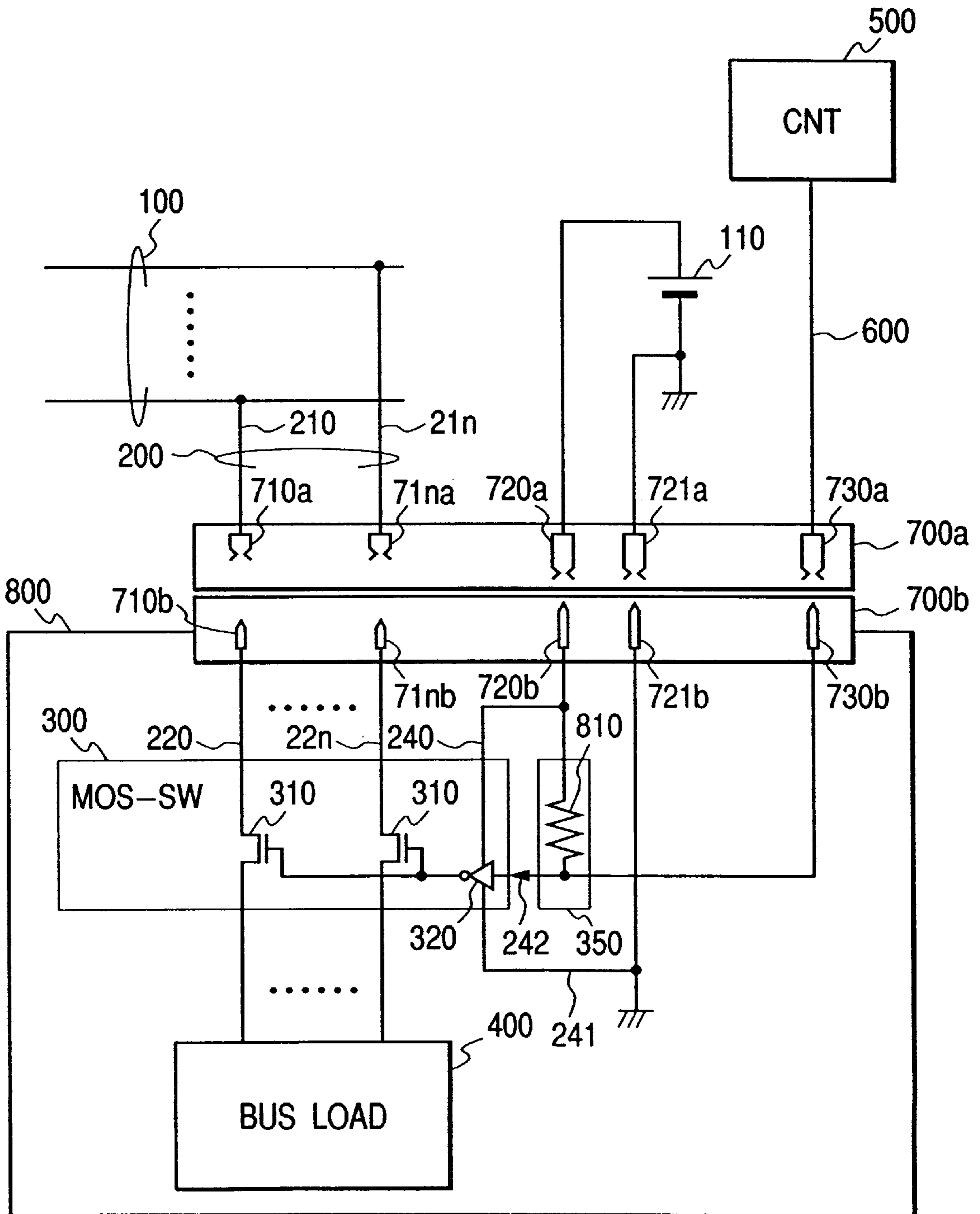


FIG. 2

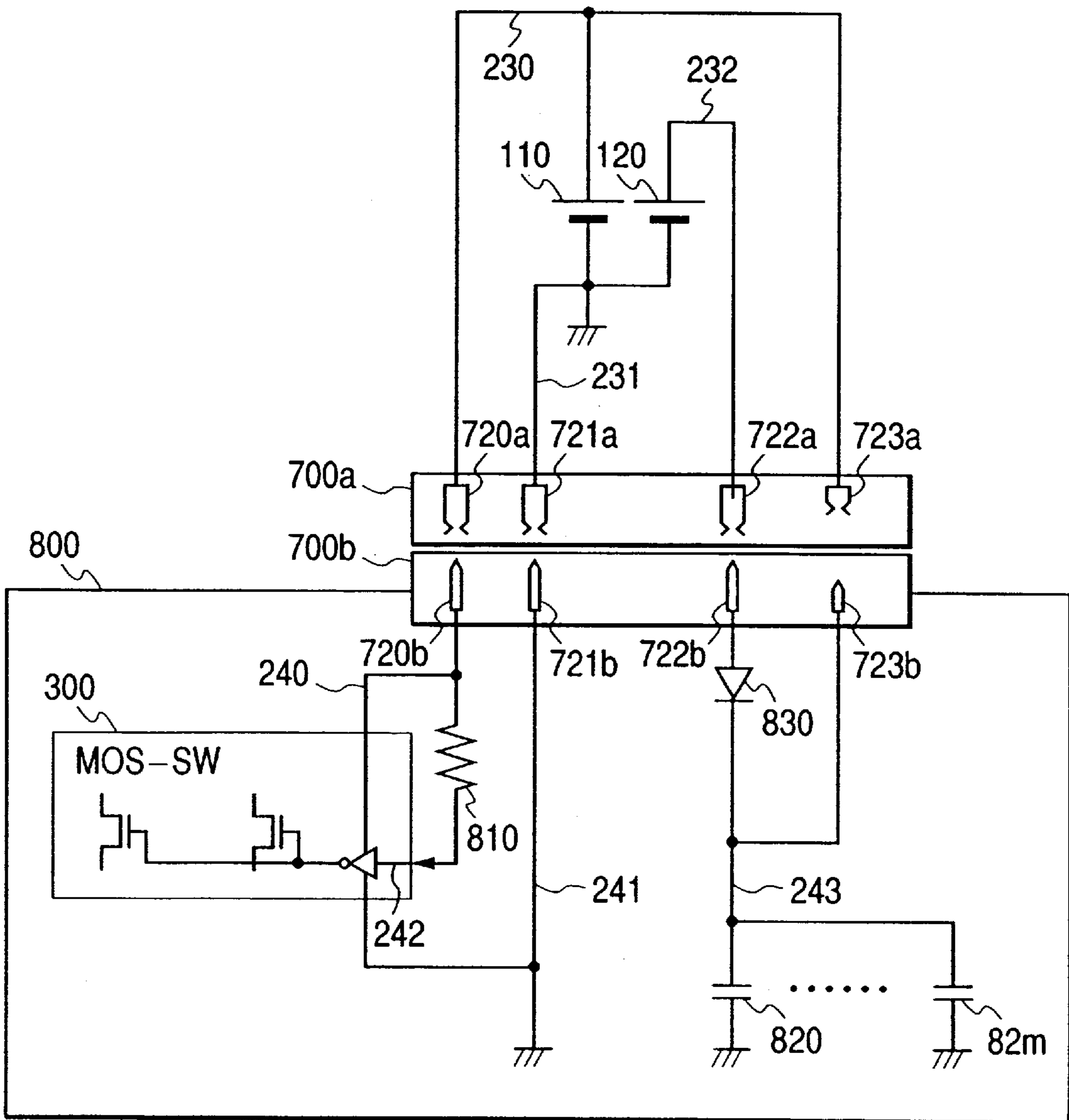


FIG. 3(a)

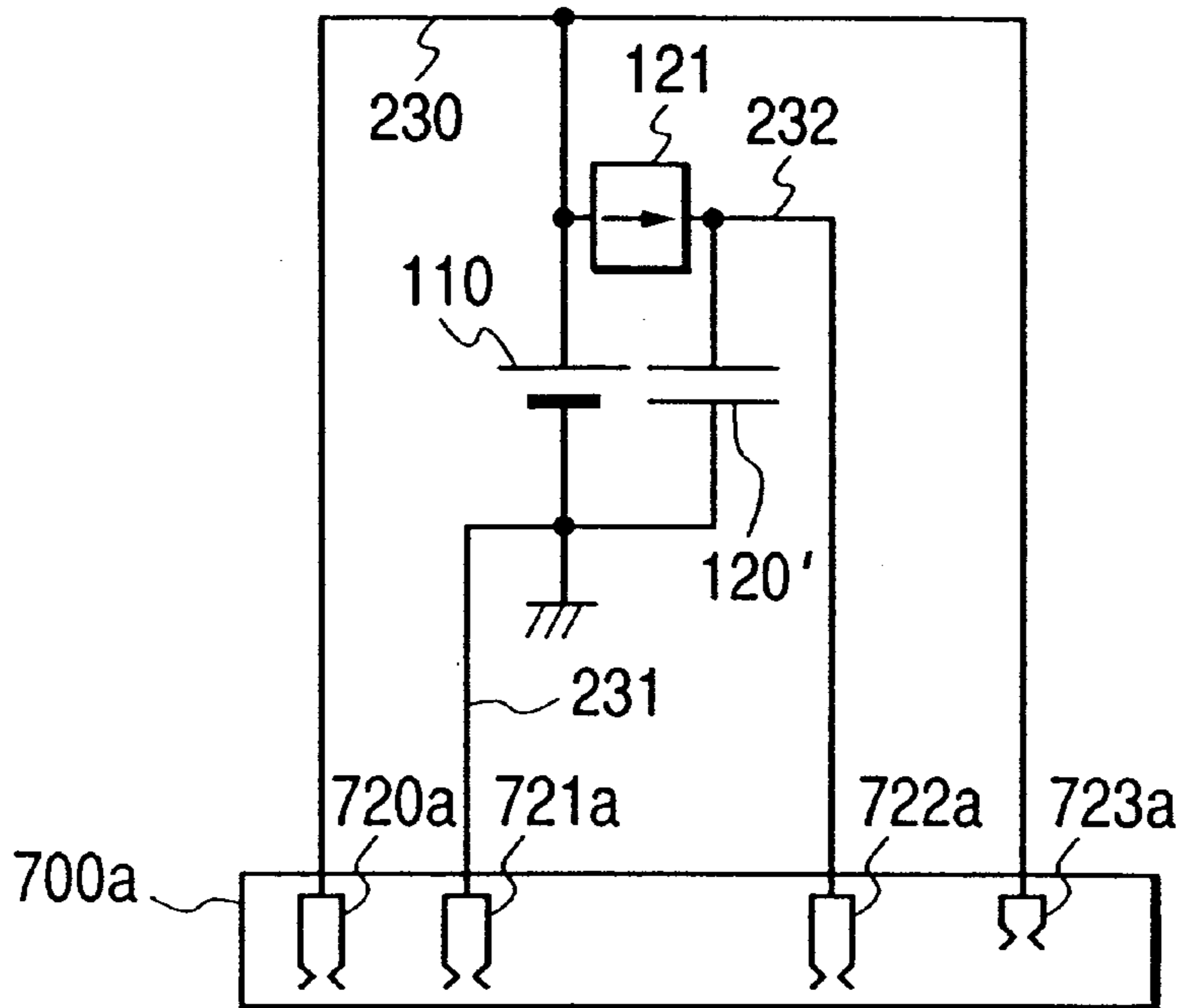


FIG. 3(b)

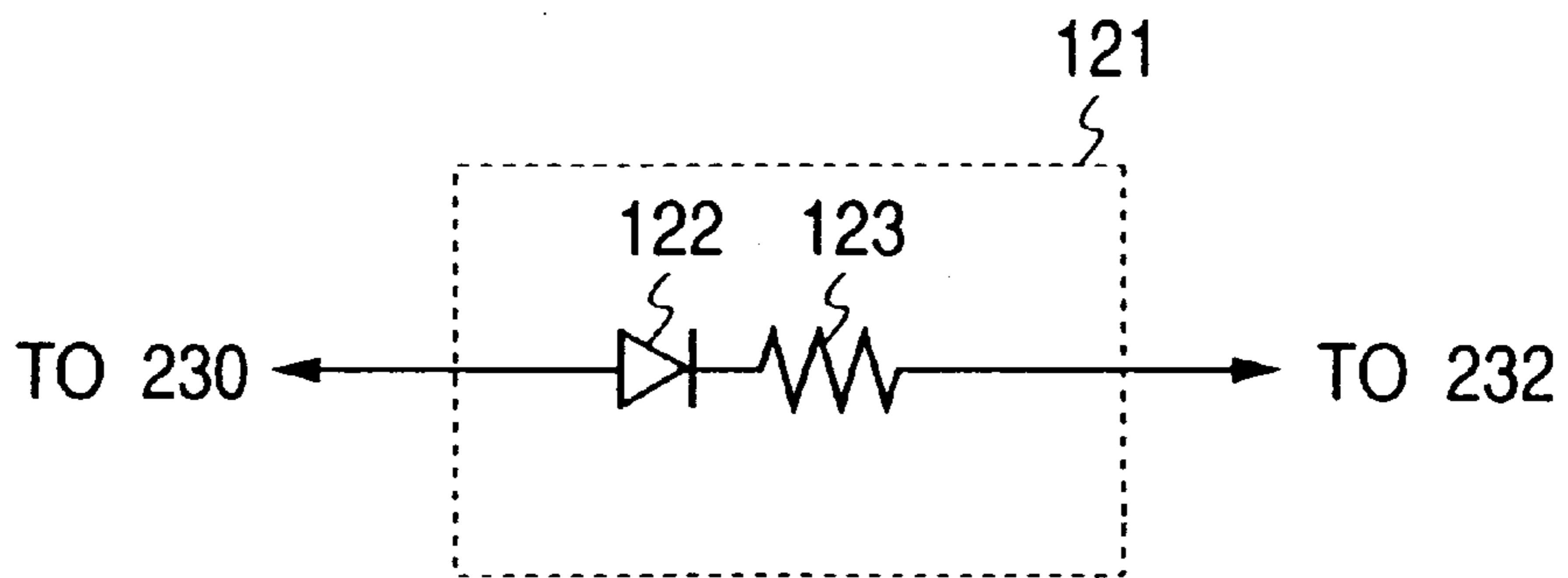


FIG. 4

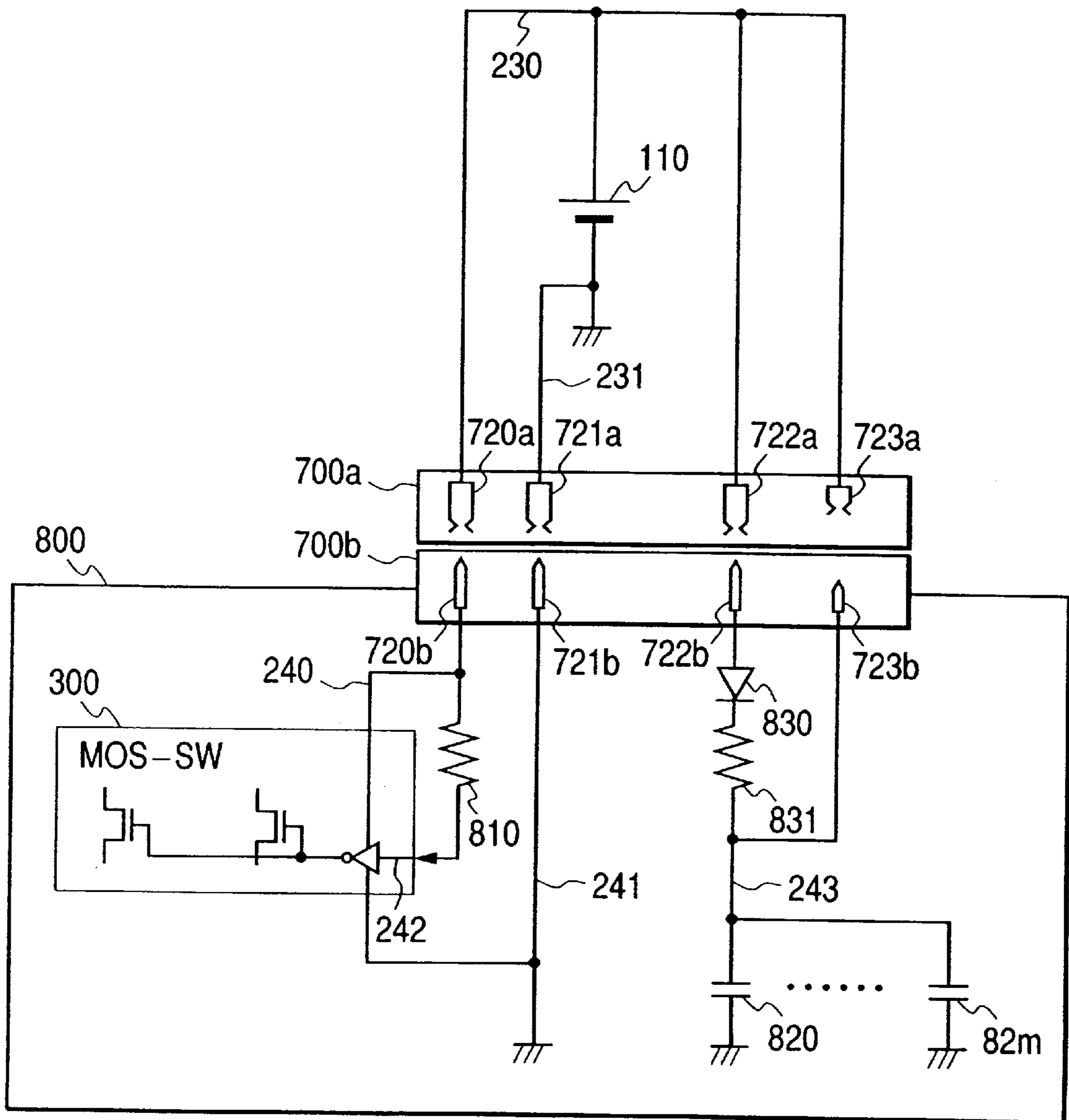


FIG. 5

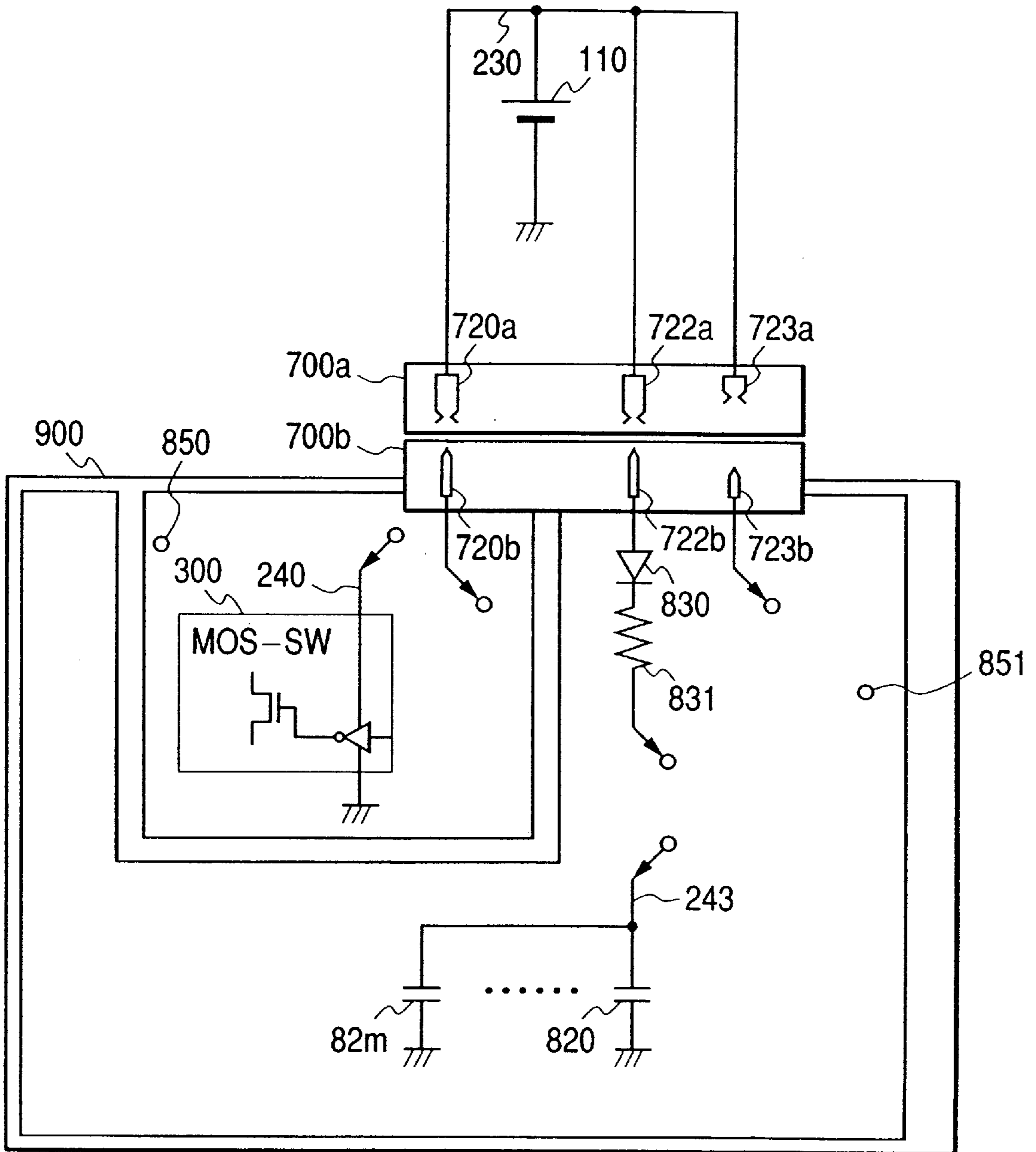


FIG. 6

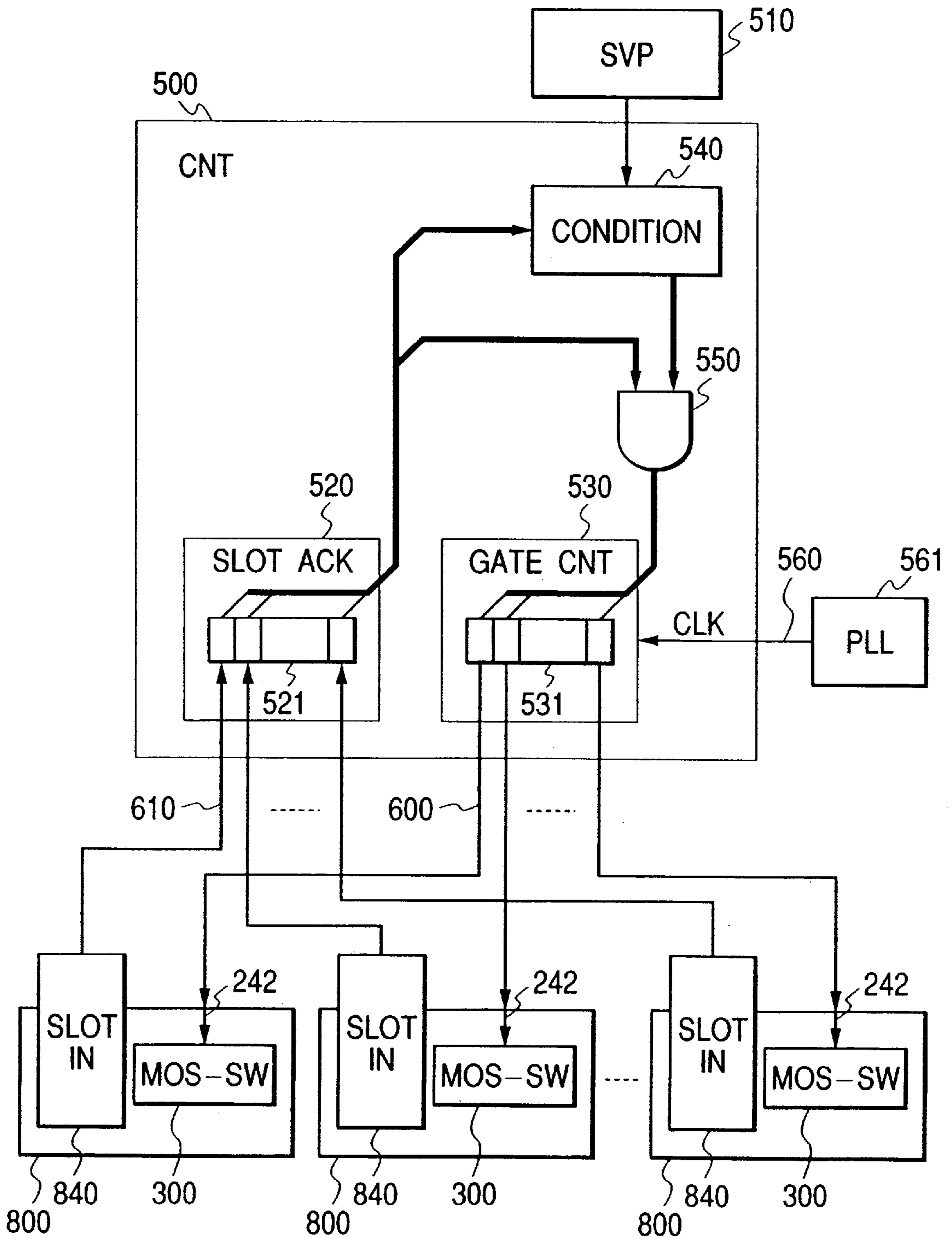


FIG. 7

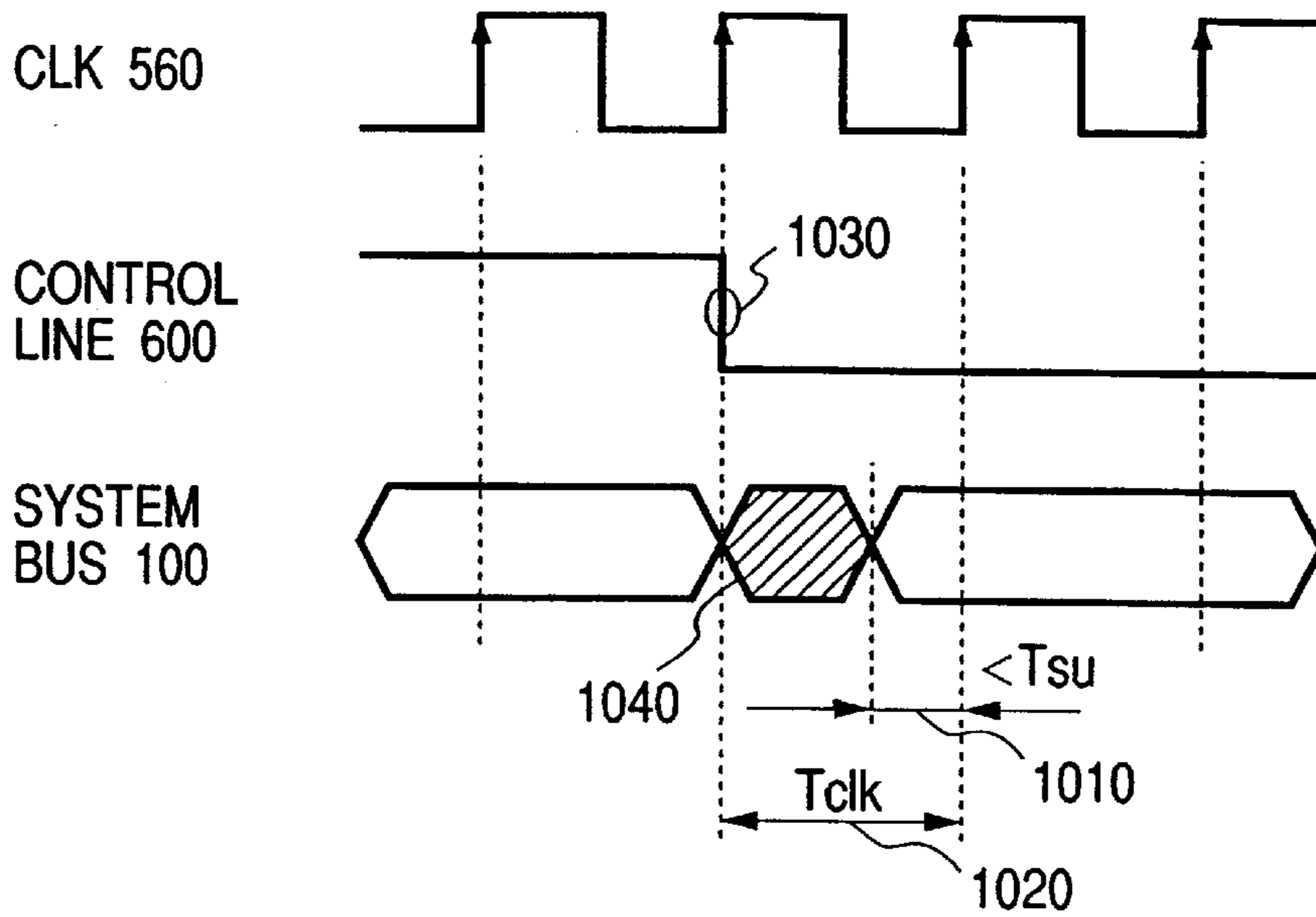


FIG. 8

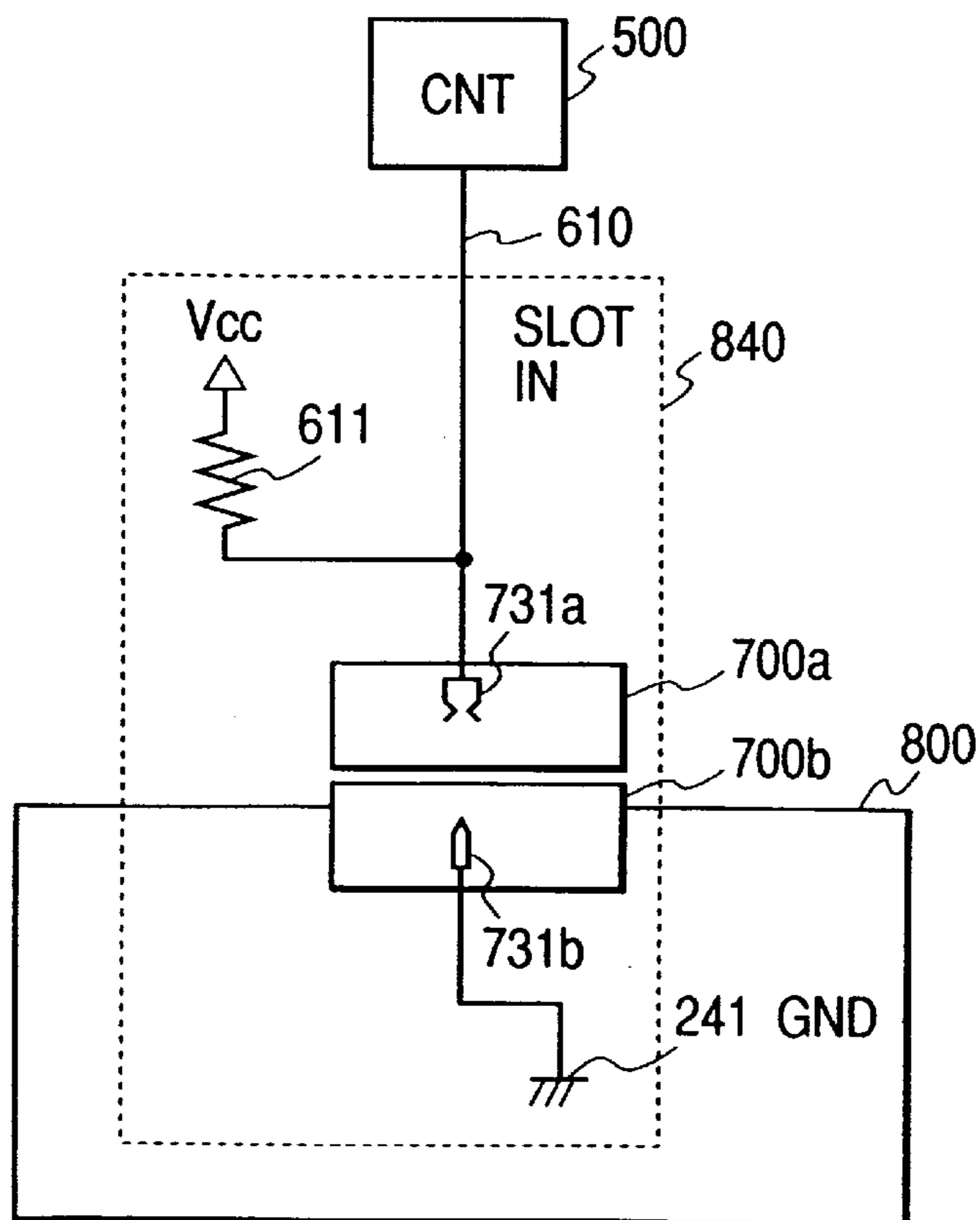
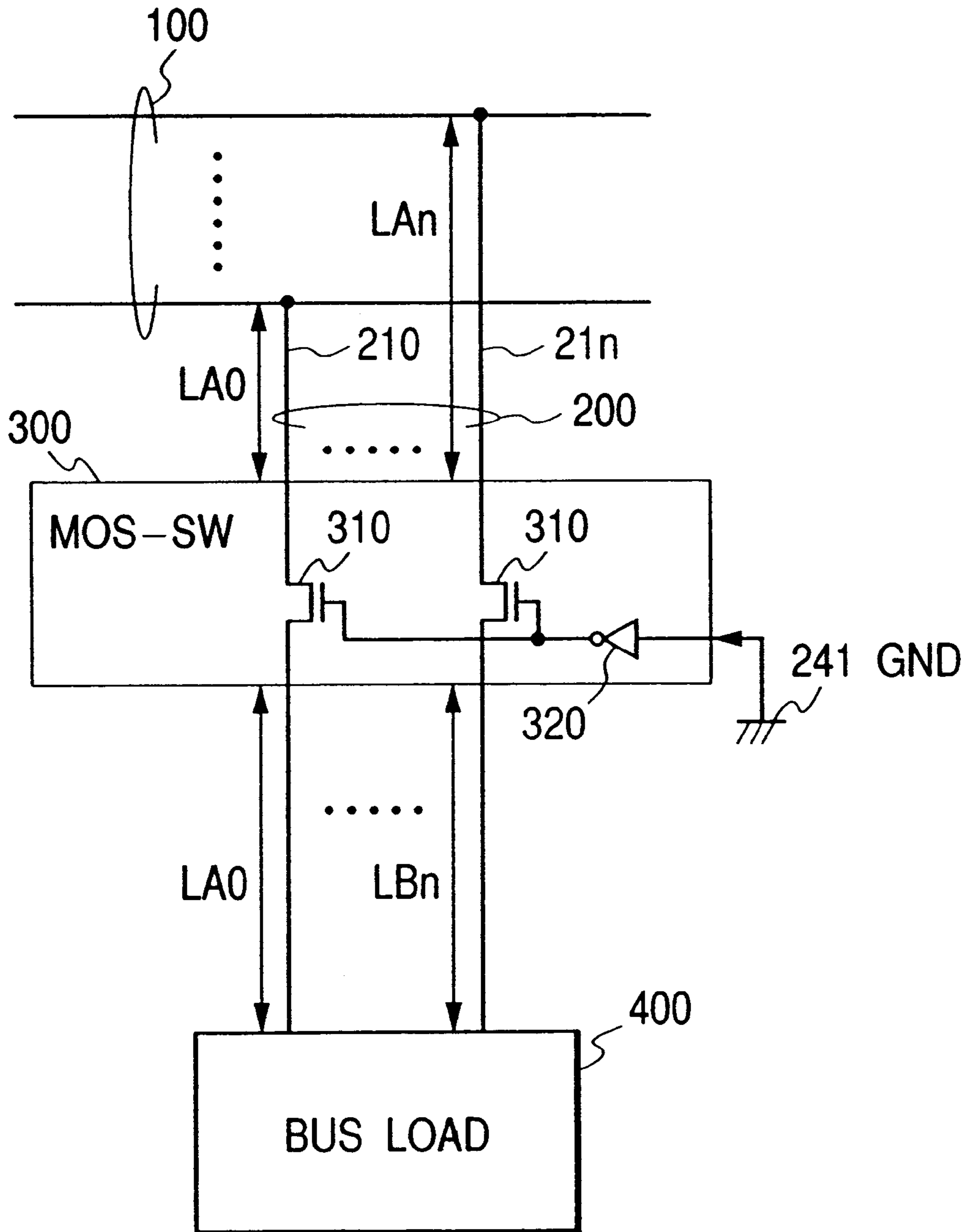


FIG. 9



INPUT/OUTPUT DEVICE FOR CONNECTION AND DISCONNECTION OF ACTIVE LINES

This application is a continuation of Ser. No. 09/043,517 filed Mar. 23, 1998 now U.S. Pat. No. 6,038,615 which is a 371 or PCT/JP95/01955 filed Sep. 27, 1995.

TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates to an input/output device for connection and disconnection of active lines, and particularly to a device for connecting and disconnecting other electronic circuit devices to and from a network of signal circuits operating independently of an operating system bus, without causing the operation of the system bus to stop.

BACKGROUND ART

In recent computer systems, as well as high speed and high performance processing devices, there has also been a demand for improvements in the transfer rate of a system bus which is the transmission path for the results of processing. Also, accompanying the diversification of systems, there has been an increasing necessity to connect electronic circuits having various functions mainly to the system bus. The roles played by computer systems have become much more serious, and in order to maintain expansion devices including the aforementioned electronic circuits, there is a tendency to not permit system stoppages, and a need has arisen to connect or disconnect these expansion devices using active lines. On the other hand, in shared bus system type configurations, there is also a need for a way of settling the bus signal waveform quickly, for each expansion device, in order to achieve high speed operation.

Conventionally, as disclosed in Japanese Patent Laid-open Publication No. Hei 5-12777 (which will be referred to as publication 1), there has been known a device in which power is supplied beforehand using a cord, etc., and disable control (open control) of bus drivers is carried out. As disclosed in Patent laid-open publication No. Hei 4-171520 (publication 2) a power supply and an open/close control line of a driver are connected to bus circuits by a long pin, while other bus signal lines are connected to the bus circuits by a short pin. At the time of insertion of a device, corruption of signals on the bus caused by the insertion is prevented by disabling the open/close signal line of the drivers in advance. However, in publication 1, the procedure of connecting the cord beforehand at the time of insertion or removal is complicated, while in publication 2 an open/close control line must be disabled beforehand. In either case, since it can not be guaranteed that the drivers will be disabled when insertion or removal is carried out carelessly, there is a possibility of problems arising such as the system crashing, for instance.

DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

The object of the present invention is to provide an input/output device capable of connecting and disconnecting active lines, and particularly an input/output device in which the insertion or removal of expansion devices does not inhibit bus signal transfer of other electronic devices on a high speed bus due to a disabled state being maintained at the time of insertion or removal using transfer gates with small signal delay in the input output device.

Another object of the present invention is to provide an input/output device capable of connecting and disconnecting

active lines, and particularly an input/output device in which the internal power supply systems of expansion devices are multiplexed, the influence on power supplies is reduced at the time of inserting or removing expansion devices, at the same time as ensuring that the maintaining of high impedance of internal parts of the expansion devices, particularly the input/output devices, does not become unreliable, and in which the operation of electronic circuits not involved with insertion or removal does not become unreliable.

Still another object of the present invention is to provide a method, related to an input/output device, that can be applied to a high speed bus to rapidly settle the bus operating waveform by arranging insertion of transfer gates at locations a fixed short distance from a bus at the input/output section of electronic circuits.

An input/output device of the present invention is connected to a plurality of electronic circuits and to a plurality of signal circuit networks having signal branch wires, these electronic circuit networks being arranged on printed circuit boards interconnecting the signal circuit networks and on separate expansion devices, the expansion devices having an input/output device power supply section for supplying power to the input output devices and being connected to the signal circuit networks through connectors including a pair of long pins that make initial contact at the time of insertion and are the last thing separated at the time of removal, and a pair of short pins that make contact after the long pins at the time of insertion, and are separated before the long pins at the time of removal, the input/output device power supply section being connected to a main power supply through the pair of long pins, the input/output device including a plurality of transfer gates, the transfer gates having two input/output terminals and an open/close control terminal, one of the input terminals of the plurality of transfer gates being connected to the plurality of signal branch wires through the pair of short pins while the other input terminal of the plurality of transfer gates is connected to the electronic circuits, and the open/close control terminal is connected to a positive or negative power supply of the input/output device power supply section inside the expansion devices, through a resistor.

Further, an input device of the present invention is characterized in that the open/close control terminals of the plurality of transfer gates are connected to a control device for carrying out open/close control of the transfer gates, through the pair of long pins.

The control device of the present invention drives the open/close terminal in synchronism with a reference signal used by the electronic circuits to extract signal of the signal circuit networks.

Further, the control device of the present invention has connection confirmation means for confirming whether or not the plurality of expansion devices are connected to the signal circuit networks, and at least one connection state register for establishing connection states of the plurality of expansion devices that have been identified by the connection confirmation means.

The control device of the present invention is further characterized in that it has an open/close control register, and open and close for each input/output device is controlled by writing open or closed information to a region of the open/close control register corresponding to each input/output device.

An expansion device of the present invention has an input/output device power supply section for supplying power only to the input/output device, and a circuit power

supply section for supplying power to circuits other than the input/output device, the input/output power supply section being connected to a main power supply through a first pair of long pins, the circuit power supply section being connected to the main power supply or to a different reserve charge power supply through a second pair of long pins.

The expansion device of the present invention is further characterized in that it has an input/output device power supply section for supplying power only to the input/output device, and a circuit power supply section for supplying power to circuits other than the input/output device, the input/output power supply section being connected to a main power supply through a first pair of long pins, the circuit power supply section being connected to the main power supply through a second pair of long pins.

The expansion device of the present invention is further characterized in that it has an input/output device power supply section for supplying power only to the input/output device, and a circuit power supply section for supplying power to circuits other than the input/output device, the input/output power supply section being connected to a main power supply through a first pair of long pins, the circuit power supply section being connected to a capacitor through a second pair of long pins, the capacitor being charged by the main power supply.

Still further, the input/output device of the present invention is characterized in that the capacitor is charged from the main power supply through a resistor, or through a resistor and a diode.

Further, in the input/output device of the present invention, a circuit power supply section is connected to the main supply through a pair of short pins.

An expansion device of the present invention is characterized in that the input/output device power supply section and the circuit power supply section are wired onto a printed substrate for connecting the electronic circuits, between spaces where there is no wiring material.

The expansion device of the present invention is further characterized in that a pin on a connector for supplying power to the input/output device power supply section and the circuit power supply section are arranged with maximum separation on the connector.

The input/output device of the present invention is connected to a plurality of electronic circuits and to a plurality of signal circuit networks having signal branch wires, and includes a plurality of transfer gates. The transfer gates have two input/output terminals and an open/close control terminal. First signal branch wires connect one input/output terminal of the transfer gates and the signal circuit networks, while second signal branch wires connect the other input/output terminals of said plurality of transfer gates to the electronic circuits. The open/close control terminal of the transfer gates maintains a potential across the two input/output terminals to always maintain a conductive state. Reflected waves of the signal circuit networks are reduced by making the length of the first signal branch wires less than 1.5 inches, and distribution loss of the electronic circuits is reduced by making the length of the second signal branch wires less than 1.5 inches.

Since the present has the above construction, a disable signal is supplied to the open/close control terminal of the transfer gates at the same time as a stable power supply is provided to the transfer gates, even when expansion devices are inserted or removed, the input/output terminals of the transfer gates are maintained at high impedance, and it is possible to minimize the effects on the system bus at the time of insertion or removal.

Further, in the present invention, a reserve charge power supply other than the main power supply for supplying power to a plurality of expansion devices is prepared, and the power supply systems inside the expansion devices are arranged into stable power supply systems connected to a stable main power supply from initial insertion of the expansion devices and unstable power supply systems connected to the reserve charge power supply at the time of insertion of the expansion devices. From initial insertion of the expansion devices, by supplying power to transfer gates that require the input/output terminals to be reliably high impedance from the stable power supply systems and supplying power to charge a capacitive load existing in the expansion devices from the unstable power supply systems, it is possible to reduce the effects on the main power supply and to continue stable operation of other expansion devices currently operating on the system bus, even at the time of insertion or removal of the expansion devices. As long as the main power supply can supply power smoothly it can also serve as the reserve charge power supply.

Also, by inserting transfer gates at positions fixed short distances from a bus at the input output section of the electronic circuits, the effects of reflections of the transfer gates at the electronic circuit side can be absorbed by the transfer gates, bus signal multiplexed reflected waves can be attenuated in a short time, and the bus waveform can be settled rapidly.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is an overall drawing of one embodiment of the present invention, showing connection of a system bus and expansion devices.

FIG. 2 shows one embodiment of an input output device supplying power to an expansion device.

FIG. 3 shows one embodiment of a plurality of power supplies for supplying power to an expansion device.

FIG. 4 shows another embodiment of an input output device supplying power to an expansion device.

FIG. 5 shows an example of packaging independent power supply regions for expansion devices.

FIG. 6 shows one embodiment of a control device connected to a plurality of expansion devices.

FIG. 7 shows a connection control timing sequence when logically connecting an expansion device to a system bus.

FIG. 8 shows one embodiment of a device notifying that an expansion device has been inserted onto a system bus.

FIG. 9 shows one embodiment of an input/output device using transfer gates.

BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

FIG. 1 is a functional block diagram of an input/output device realizing connection and disconnection of active lines in an embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 1(a) shows an expansion device **800** connecting to a bus (BUS) and a power supply (POWER). The expansion device **800** includes a MOS switch **300** having a plurality of transfer gates, a high impedance maintaining circuit **350** (Hi-Z HOLD) for controlling high impedance to the MOS switch **300** when the expansion device **800** is inserted or removed, and an electronic circuit **400** (BUS LOAD) connecting to the bus for operation. Further, there is connection means for ensuring that the order of connection is the power supply followed by the bus when the expansion device **800**

is inserted to the bus and power supply, and disconnecting in the order of the bus followed by the power supply when the expansion device is removed. In this case the connection means is shown as long and short pins.

The transfer gates are one type of MOS element. If the gate terminal of a MOS transfer gate is enabled (close control) a conducting state results across the source and drain terminals, while if the gate terminal is disabled, a high impedance state exists across the source and drain terminals. The transfer gates can be used as a crossbar switch, for example, for switching communication lines.

With respect to the power supply, all electronic circuit devices used on the bus circuit typically share a power supply. However, there is a danger of variations in power supply load at the time of insertion or removal of expansion devices causing instability in the operation of other electronic circuits. In order to improve reliability, there is a desire for power supply capacity to be larger than a regular load state, so as to keep fluctuations of the power supply to a steady value in the system, even when an expansion device is inserted or removed.

According to the embodiment of the present invention, it is possible to reduce the effects on an operating bus at the time of insertion or removal of an expansion device **800**. Specifically, when an expansion device **800** is inserted, initially power is supplied to the expansion device **800**, and the high impedance maintaining circuit **350** drives the signal lines of the MOS switch so as to put the MOS switch **300** in a high impedance state. After that, the MOS switch **300** that has been put in a high impedance state is connected to the bus, the bus and electronic circuits are connected by carrying out external enable control of the MOS switch **300** and the insertion operation is thus completed. When the MOS switch **300** and the bus to which an expansion device is being inserted are connected, the MOS switch **300** enables insertion of the expansion device **800** even to an operating bus because the high impedance state can be guaranteed and a capacitive load can be made small. FIG. 1(b) shows a power supply wiring example in order to allow the embodiment to function reliably. Specifically, if a power supply is initially connected to an electronic circuit **400** having a generally large capacitive load, the power supply fluctuates due to current surge caused by charging of the capacitive load and the operation of the MOS switch **300** can not be guaranteed. Also, in the event that another expansion device is sharing the power supply, there is a risk that any effects will be passed on to the operating bus. At least during the connection operation, power is supplied from a stable power supply POWER_1 to the MOS switch **300** and the high impedance maintaining circuit **350**, while power is supplied to the electronic circuit **400** from a power supply POWER_2 that is different from POWER_1. By separating the power supply systems, the operation of putting the MOS switch **300** into a high impedance state can be guaranteed at the time of insertion of an expansion device **800**, and also, by separating the power supply POWER_2 from a power supply used in normal operation the operation of other expansion devices is guaranteed.

Detailed examples of each of the functions will be given in the following. One embodiment of an input/output device realizing connection and disconnection of active lines according to the present invention will now be described below with reference to FIG. 1(b). FIG. 1(c) shows a system bus **100** having a plurality of signal lines, branching wires **200** from the system bus **100**, a MOS switch **300** (MOS-SW), an electronic circuit **400** (BUSLOAD) operating by connection to the bus, a control device **500** (CNT) for

open/close controlling the MOS switch **300**, a line **600** for open/close control of the MOS switch **300**, an expansion device **800** separate from a printed substrate for wiring of the system bus **100**, a resistor **810** on the expansion device **800** and connected to a negative open/close control terminal **242** of the MOS switch **300**, connectors **700a**, **700b** for connecting the expansion device **800** to the system bus **100**, and a main power supply **110** for supplying power to the expansion device **800**. A plurality of expansion devices **800** are preferably connected to the system bus **100**, and in this embodiment an expansion device **800** will be referred to instead of a plurality of expansion devices **800**.

The connectors **700a**, **700b** have a pair of long pins that make contact first when an expansion device **800** is inserted and break contact last when it is being removed, and a pair of short pins that make contact later than the long pins when the expansion device is being inserted and break contact before the long pins when the expansion device is being removed.

The MOS switch **300** includes a plurality of transfer gates **310** and a driver **320** for driving the gates of the transfer gates **310**. The transfer gates **310** are connected to the electronic circuit **400** and also respectively connected to the branch wires **210-21n**, through the pairs of short pins (**710a-71na**, **710b-71nb**). The driver **320** is supplied with power from a positive power supply section **240** and a negative power supply section **241** for the input/output device. The positive power supply section **240** and a negative power supply section **241** for the input/output device are connected to a stable main power supply **110** through the long pin pairs (**720a-721a**, **720b-721b**). One end of the resistor **810** is connected to the open/close control terminal **242** while the other end is connected to the positive power supply section **240** for the input/output device that is provided with power from the main power supply **110** through the long pin pair (**720a**, **720b**). The open/close control terminal **242** is connected to the short pin pair (**730a**, **730b**) and also to the controller **500** through the control line **600**. The resistance value of the resistor **810** is preferable made large so as to make it possible to drive the control line **600** from the controller **500** within a sufficiently small time compared to the operating cycle of the system bus.

In order for the electronic circuit **400** to transmit a signal to the system bus **100**, the controller **500** must enable respective transfer gates **310** inside the MOS switch **300**, by making the control line **600** a "logical negative potential" (this will hereinafter be simply referred to as LOW, and similarly a "logical positive potential" will be referred to as HIGH). As a result of this, the electronic circuit **400** is connected to the system bus **100**, and can transmit signal to other electronic devices connected to the system bus **100**.

The technical concept of the present invention is to guarantee a high impedance state of input/output lines **220-22n** at the time an expansion device **800** is inserted, without the intervention of the controller **500**, by securing the power supply of the MOS switch **300** and the potential of the open/close control terminal before the input/output lines **220-22n** are connected. In order to do this, means are required for guaranteeing operation of the MOS switch **300** and the open/close control terminal before the input/output lines **220-22n** are connected, and in this embodiment it is intended to guarantee the connection sequence of the power supply and signal lines using a connector having long pins, to give stable operation of the MOS switch **300**.

It will now be described how insertion or removal of an expansion device **800** without adversely affecting the system bus **100** is realized.

When an operator inserts an expansion device **800a** positive voltage of the stable main power supply **110** is initially supplied to the positive power supply section **240** for the input output device from the pair of long pins (**720a**, **720b**), and at the same time a negative voltage of the stable main power supply is provided to the negative power supply section **241** from the pair of long pins (**721a**, **721b**). At this time, since HIGH is applied to the open/close control terminal **242** of the MOS switch **300** through the resistor **810**, the MOS switch **300** secures the power supply and is in a disabled state, while the input/output lines **220~22n** are guaranteed in a high impedance state. If an expansion device **800** is inserted, the high impedance state input/output lines **220~22n** and the branch wires **210~21n** are connected through the short pin pairs (**710a~71na**, **710b~71nb**). After all the pins of the connector **700a** and connector **700b** have been connected, the controller **500** drives the open/close control terminal **242** LOW via the control line **600**, and the electronic circuit **400** and the system bus **100** are connected. Because of the above described structure, since the input/output lines **220~22n** of the MOS switch **300** are guaranteed to be in a high impedance state when the expansion device **800** is inserted, the influence of load variation passed to the system bus is only slight.

Next, in the event that an operator removes an expansion device **800**, the operator first of all supplies an instruction to the controller before removal, the open/close control terminal **242** is driven HIGH through the control line **600**, and the electronic circuit **400** and the system bus **100** are disconnected. The expansion device **800** is pulled out with the MOS switch **300** being secured in a disabled state, and first of all the short pin pairs (**710a~71na**, **710b~71nb**) connected to the branch wires **210~21n**, and the short pin pairs (**730a**, **730b**) connected to the control line **600** are disconnected. Even after the plurality of short pin pairs have been disconnected, the input output lines **220~22n** of the MOS switch **300** are guaranteed to be in a high impedance state because of the power supply provided from the long pin pairs (**720a~721a**, **721a~721b**) and the resistor **810** joined to the power supply. Finally, the long pin pairs (**720a~721a**, **720b~721b**) are disconnected, and removal is complete. Similarly to the case when an expansion device **800** is inserted, since the input/output lines **220~22n** of the MOS switch **300** are guaranteed to be in a high impedance state when the expansion device **800** is removed, the influence of load variation passed to the system bus is only slight.

FIG. 2 is a diagram showing an input/output device realizing connection and disconnection of active lines, and particularly an input/output device providing power to an expansion device, used in the embodiment of the present invention.

As well as the structural elements shown in FIG. 1, FIG. 2 shows a reserve charge power supply **120**, circuit loads **820~82m** that represent a load of an expansion device **800** included in an electronic circuit **400**, and a circuit power supply section **243** for providing direct power only to the circuit loads **820~82m** from the reserve charge power supply **120** through the pair of long pins (**722a**, **722b**).

The technical concept of the present invention is to guarantee the power supply the MOS switch **300**, so that input/output lines are reliably put in a high impedance state, preventing, as much as possible, effects caused by load fluctuations being passed to a main power supply **110** from which expansion devices other than those currently operating are receiving power, at the time the expansion device **800** is inserted or removed. In this embodiment, which is intended to achieve the above, there is shown an example in

which a positive power supply section **240** for an input/output device (MOS switch **300**) and a positive power supply section (in this case the circuit power supply section **243**) for devices other than the input/output device are separated within the expansion device **800**, and power is supplied to the input/output device positive power supply section **240** from the main power supply **110**, while power to the circuit power supply section **243** is provided from the reserve charge power supply **120**.

A connection is made from the reserve charge power supply **120** to the circuit power supply section **243** through the pair of long pins (**722a**, **722b**) and a diode **830**. A connection is also made from the main power supply **110** to the circuit power supply section **243** through the pair of short pins (**723a**, **723b**), bypassing the diode **830**.

The manner in which adverse effects caused by load variations are prevented from being passed to the main power supply **110** when an expansion device **800** is inserted or removed will be explained in the following.

When an operator inserts an expansion device **800**, power is provided to the MOS switch **300** from the stable main power supply **110** through the long pin pairs (**720a~721a**, **720b~721b**) Keeping the input/output lines of the MOS switch **300** disabled using the stable main power supply is done in the same way as has already been described above. At the same time, power is also provided from the reserve charge power supply **120** to the circuit power supply section **243** through the pair of long pins (**722a**, **722b**) and the diode **830**. In this case, the reserve charge power supply **120** carries out reserve charging of the circuit loads **820~82m**. If an expansion device **800** is inserted, power is supplied to the circuit power supply **243** from the main power supply **110** by the pair of short pins (**723a**, **723b**), and insertion of the expansion device **800** is thus completed.

Next, when an operator removes an expansion device **800**, first of all the short pin pair (**723a**, **723b**) is disconnected and the main power supply stops supplying power to the load circuits **820~82m**. At this time, counter-electromotive force caused by the effects of the power supply being physically removed is cut out by the diode **830**. The plurality of long pin pairs (**720a~722a**, **720b~722b**) are also separated, and removal of the expansion device **800** is completed. Here, the design of the embodiment is such that it does not matter if the power supply capacity of the reserve charge power supply **120** is small compared to the main power supply **110**. That is, the main power supply **110** is shared among a plurality of expansion devices connected to the system bus **100**, which means that if the effects on the plurality of expansion devices are taken into consideration fluctuations caused by variation in load of the main power supply **110** must be avoided as much as possible. For this reason, the supply of power from the stable main power supply **110** should be supplied to an essential minimum of circuits, and at the time of insertion or removal, power is supplied only to the MOS switch **300** which demands reliable operation. On the other hand, various electronic circuits are included within the expansion device, and it can generally be said that the initial charging charge immediately before an expansion device is inserted is zero. If the main power supply **110** is directly connected to these electronic circuits, a surge current flows initially charging the electronic circuits, and there is a danger of fluctuations in the main power supply **110**.

The reserve charge power supply **120** is arranged to prevent the above described fluctuations, and the reserve charge is carried out by the reserve charge power supply **120**, and the structure is such that the main power supply **110**

is connected after the surge current has been stabilized. In this embodiment, the structure is such that power is supplied from the reserve charge power supply **120** to the long pins, and from the main power supply to the short pins. For the above described reason, a designer will preferably design the capacity of the reserve charge power supply **120** taking into consideration the size of the surge current of the expansion device **800** so that fluctuations are made to be at a level that can be approved for the system configuration.

Another embodiment of an input/output device for connection and disconnection of active lines according to the present invention, and particularly which provides power to an expansion device, is shown in FIG. 3 and will be described below.

FIG. 3(a) differs from the structure of FIG. 2 in that the reserve charge power supply **120** is replaced with a capacitor **120'**, and a surge current limiting circuit **121** has been added.

FIG. 3(b) shows the structure of the a surge current limiting circuit **121**, and shows a diode **122** and a resistor **123** connected between a main power supply line **230** connected to the main power supply **110**, and a reserve charge power supply line **232** connected to the capacitor **120'**.

The feature of this embodiment is the reserve charge power supply **120** has been replaced by the capacitor **120'** that is charged from the main power supply **110**.

The behaviour of the two power supplies will now be described below. First of all, the capacitor **120'** is charged from the main power supply **110** and is charged to approximately the same potential as the main power supply **110**. When an expansion device **800** has been inserted, the initial charging current for the circuit loads inside the expansion device **800** is provided from the capacitor **120'**. From FIG. 2 and FIG. 3, it can be seen that the instant the long pin pair (**722a**, **722b**) are connected there is a transfer of electrical charge transfer across the capacitor **120** and the circuit loads **820~82m**. After that, charging is carried out from the main power supply **110** at a time constant according to the resistor **123** and the combined capacitance of the capacitor **120** and the circuit loads **820~82m**, until the long pin pair (**723a**, **723b**) are connected. Accordingly, taking the previously mentioned time coefficient into consideration, fluctuations in the main power supply **110** caused by surge current can be prevented by giving the capacitor **120'** a sufficiently large value.

Another embodiment of an input/output device for connection and disconnection of active lines according to the present invention, and particularly which provides power to an expansion device, is shown in FIG. 4 and will be described below.

Compared to the constructional elements shown in FIG. 2, the reserve charge power charge **120** has been removed in FIG. 3, and the resistor **831** is arranged in series with the diode **830**. Also, there is a direct connection from the main power supply **110** to the pair of long pins (**722a**, **722b**).

The feature of this embodiment is that the positive power supply section **240** for the input/output device (in this case the MOS switch **300**) and the positive power supply section (in this case the circuit power supply section **243**) for circuits other than the input/output device are separated inside the expansion device, and power is provided to the positive power supply section **240** and the circuit power supply section **243** from the main power supply **110**.

A connection is made between the main power supply **110** and the circuit power supply section **243** via the pair of long pins (**722a**, **722b**), the diode **830** and the resistor **831**, and a

connection is made between the main power supply **110** and the circuit power supply section **243** via the pair of short pins (**723a**, **723b**), bypassing the diode **830** and the resistor **831**.

The prevention of adverse effects caused by load variations being passed to the main power supply **110** when an expansion device **800** is inserted or removed will be described in the following.

When an operator inserts an expansion device **800**, power is provided from the stable main power supply to the MOS switch **300** through the pair of long pins (**720a~721a**, **720b~721b**). Maintaining the disabled state of the input/output lines of the MOS switch **300** by the stable main power supply is the same as has been described in the previous embodiments. At the same time, power is provided from the main power supply **110** to the circuit power supply section **243** through the pair of long pins **722a**, **722b**, the diode **830** and the resistor **831**. Here, the main power supply **110** carries out reserve charging of the circuit loads **820~82m** at a time coefficient determined by the resistor **831** and the combined capacitance of the circuit loads **820~82m**. Further, when the expansion device has been inserted, power is provided from the main power supply **110** to the circuit power supply section **243** by the short pin pair (**723a**, **723b**), and insertion of the expansion device **800** is completed.

When an operator removes an expansion device **800**, first of all the short pin pair (**723a**, **723b**) are separated, and the main power supply **110** stops providing power to the circuit loads **820~82m**. At this time, a counter-electromotive force caused by the effects of disconnection of the power supply is cut out by the diode **830**. A plurality of long pin pairs (**720a~722a**, **720b~722b**) are also separated, and removal of the expansion device **800** is completed.

In the case of the embodiment in FIG. 4, compared to FIG. 2, there is no reverse charge power supply, and the resistor **831** is added as required. Because of this, a resistor **831** is preferably provided to limit surge current when the expansion device **800** is inserted, and the value of the resistor **831** is preferably made sufficiently large. However, it must be considered that before connection of the short pin pair (**723a**, **723b**), it is necessary to sufficiently charge the circuit loads **820~82m**, and a good balance must be set between an upper limit of the surge current and the size of a time coefficient.

An example of implementation of an input/output device for connection and disconnection of active lines according to the present invention, and particularly which provides power to an expansion device, is shown in FIG. 5.

FIG. 5 can be applied to FIG. 2 or FIG. 4, and in this case the embodiment of FIG. 4 will be described.

The feature of this embodiment is that the positive power supply section **240** for the input/output device (in this case the MOS switch **300**) and the positive power supply section for parts other than the input/output device (the circuit power supply section **243**) are separated within the expansion device, and respective different positive power supply regions are provided on a printed substrate **900**.

FIG. 5 shows that the long pin **720b** and the short pin **723b** are connected to respective positive power supply regions **850**, **851** on the printed substrate **900** (these regions are shown as hatched regions in the drawing), and that a connection is made from the long pin **722b** to the positive power supply region **851** through the diode **830** and resistor **831**.

Because both power supply regions are provided separately, with a space (slit) that is not part of either power supply region being interposed between the positive power

supply region for the input/output device **850** and the circuit load positive power supply region **851**, the power supply regions are prevented from affecting the main power supply **110**, and the effects of stopping fluctuations in the power supply are improved. Also, by using a multilayer printed substrate respective power supply regions can be provided on separate layers instead of on the same surface.

In this embodiment, because the input/output device power supply section **240** and the circuit power supply section **243** mutually interfere with the main power supply **110**, the long pin pair (**720a**, **720b**) and the long pin pair (**722a**, **722b**) or the short pin pair (**723a**, **723b**) are preferably arranged on the connectors (**700a**, **700b**) so as to be physically separated as much as possible. If possible, the long pin pair (**720a**, **720b**) and the long pin pair (**722a**, **722b**) are disposed on the two ends of the connector.

An embodiment an input/output device of the present invention, and particularly a control device for carrying out open/close control of the MOS switch, is shown in FIG. 6.

FIG. 6 shows a control device **500** and sections of the expansion devices related to open/close control. In this drawing there are shown the control device **500** (CNT) for carrying out open/close control of the MOS switches **300**, a service processor **510** (SVP) for supplying operator instructions to support operation of the control device **500**, a connection monitoring section **520** (SLOT ACK) for monitoring a connection state of an expansion device **800**, an open/close section **530** (GATE CNT) for carrying out the open/close operation of the MOS switches **300**, a connection determination section **540** (CONDITION) for determining connection of the MOS switches **300**, an operating instruction logic section **550**, a reference signal generator **561** (PLL) for generating reference signal **560** by extracting a signal on the system bus **100**, a control line **600** for transmitting open close control, a slot condition line **610** for transmitting a connection status of the expansion device **800**, and a slot status output section **840** (Slot IN) for outputting a connection status of the expansion device **800**.

The connection monitoring section **520** has a connection status register **521**. The open/close section **530** has an open/close control register **531**.

Operation of the control device **500** when an expansion device **800** is inserted will now be described below.

When an operator inserts an expansion device **800**, if the expansion device is initially inserted on to the system bus **100**, the fact that it has been inserted is notified from the slot status output section **840** to the control device **500** using the slot status line **610**. If insertion of the expansion device **800** is sensed, the connection monitoring section **520** sets the status of the expansion device **800** in the connection status register **521** and passes an interrupt to the connection determination section **540**. If a predetermined condition is satisfied, the connection determination section **540** that has received the interrupt issues a connection instruction to the operating instruction logic section **550**. In this case, an instruction from the service processor **510**, an interrupt generated after a fixed time has elapsed, or notification of completion of reset processing for the expansion device **800** concerned, etc. is the fixed condition, and the operating instruction logic section **550** preferably has means for confirming these, as required. The operating instruction logic section **550** writes "close" information for closing the MOS switch **300** to a region of the open/close register corresponding to the expansion device **800** that has been inserted, using signals from the connection determination section **540** and the connection monitoring section **520**. The open/close

section **530** selects a control line **600** of an expansion device **800** corresponding to the region that has been written to and drives the open/close control terminal **242** of the MOS switch **300** LOW. An inserted expansion device **800** is connected to the system bus **110** by the above described operation. A main processor for carrying out system management completes configuration control of the system bus **110**, performs setting of the internal registers inside the relevant expansion device **800** etc, and after that the system switches to normal operation.

When an operator removes an expansion device **800**, the MOS switch **300** of the expansion device **800** concerned must first of all be disconnected in order to minimize effects on the system bus **110** caused by the removal. To do this, the connection determination section **540** must first be informed of the expansion device **800** to be removed, and this can be done using a disconnection request interrupt from the main processor managing the system, an instruction input by the operator from the service processor **510**, an error report interrupt from the expansion device **800** concerned, etc. The connection determination section **540** that has confirmed the expansion device **800** to be removed issues a command that the relevant expansion device **800** is to be disconnected to the operating instruction logic section **550**. The operating instruction logic section **550** writes "open" information to a region of the open/close control register **531** corresponding to the expansion device being removed, using signals from the connection determination section **540**. The open/close section **530** selects a control line **600** of the expansion device **800** corresponding to the region that has been written to, and drives the open/close control terminal **242** of the MOS switch **300** HIGH. An inserted expansion device **800** is disconnected from the system bus **110** using the above described procedure. Further, an expansion device that can be removed is physically disconnected from the system by an operator. A main processor for carrying out system management completes reconfiguration control of the system bus **110**, performs setting of the internal registers inside the relevant expansion device **800** etc, and after that the system switches to normal operation.

An embodiment of a method of connecting an input/output device of the present invention, and particularly an expansion device, to a system bus, is shown in FIG. 7, and will be described below.

In this embodiment, when the expansion device is physically connected or disconnected to or from the system bus, the timing of the connection or disconnection is set so that signal transmissions currently in progress on the system bus are not affected, and disturbance of the waveform is settled within a period which does not affect the extraction of signal from the bus.

FIG. 7 shows the timing of connecting an expansion device **800** to the system bus **100**, and shows examples of operating waveforms of a reference signal **560**, the control line **600** and the system bus **100**. In this embodiment, a signal on the system bus **100** is defined and taken in on the rising edge of the reference signal **560**. The period of the reference signal **560** of the system bus **560** is $T_{clk1020}$, and the required signal set up time on the system bus **100** is T_{su1010} .

The reference signal **560** is connected to the open/close section **530** that drives the control line **600**. To logically connect the open/close section **530** the electronic circuit **400** inside the expansion device **800** and to the system bus **100**, the control line **600** is driven LOW. In this case the open/close section **530** sets the control signal **600** LOW in

synchronism with the rising edge of the reference signal **560** (**1030**). As a result, the MOS switch **300** is put in a conducting state, and since the electronic circuit **400** is connected to the system bus **100** signal disturbance occurs on the system bus (**1040**). However, even if signal disturbance occurs, if the signal wave form is settled before the rising edge of the next reference signal **560**, i.e. within T_{su} there will be no effect on the signal taken in at the rising edge of the reference signal **560**. As a result, the control device **500** can connected the expansion device **800** without inhibiting signal transmission on the bus.

An embodiment of an input /output device realizing connection and disconnection of active lines of the present invention, and particularly a slot status output section for notifying that an expansion device has been inserted, is shown in FIG. 8, and will be described in the following.

FIG. 8 shows one structural example of a slot status output section **840**. The slot status output section **840** is provided between the expansion device **800** and the control device **500**, and a slot status line **610** is connected to a negative power supply line **241** within the expansion device **800**, via a pair of short pins (**731a**, **731b**). The slot status line **610** is also connected to a positive power supply section, for example the main power supply section **230**, via a resistor **611** inside the expansion device **800**.

The operation of the slot status output section **840** when an expansion device **800** is inserted will now be described below.

Before an operator insert an expansion device **800**, the slot status line **610** outputs HIGH because it is pulled up by resistor **611** connected to the positive power supply. This enables the control device **500** to confirm that there is no expansion device **800** connected on the system bus **100**. When the operator inserts the expansion device **800**, the plurality of long pin pairs are connected, and after the power supply potential has been defined the short pin pairs are connected. If the short pin pair (**731a**, **731b**) is connected the slot status line **610** is connected to the negative power supply section **241** and LOW is output. As a result, the control device **500** confirms that the expansion device **800** has been inserted onto the system bus **100**.

When an expansion device **800** is removed, the situation is the reverse to that described above, and before removal the slot status line **610** is outputting LOW. Removal of the expansion device **800** causes HIGH to be output, and as a result of this the control device **500** confirms that the expansion device **800** has been removed.

FIG. 9 shows one embodiment of an input/output device of the present invention, which will be described in the following.

FIG. 9 shows a system bus **100** having a plurality of signal lines, a tap **200** which is a branch off the system bus **100**, a MOS switch **300** (MOS-SW), and an electronic circuit **400** (BUSLOAD) capable of operating by direct connection to the bus.

The technical concept of the present invention is to reducing the settling time of signal waveforms on a bus when a conventional electronic circuit is directly connected to a bus and reducing waveform fluctuation by inserting a MOS switch between the bus and the electronic circuit and disposing the MOS switch **300** as close to the bus as possible, and making electronic circuits in which signal wiring from a conventional bus is restricted in length more capable of being disconnected than in the related art.

Since the MOS switch **300** is always enabled, the input of an open/close control driver **320** is connected to the negative power supply **241** via a resistor.

With regard to the respective lengths $LA_1 \sim LA_n$ of each signal line $21_0 \sim 21_n$ including the tap **200**, the lengths are made as short as possible for the implementation. When the MOS switch **300** has been enabled, signals to be transmitted on the system bus are generally subject to the effects of reflection from 3 places, i.e. (1) from the pins of the MOS switch **300** on the side of the system bus **100**, (2) from the pins of the MOS switch **300** on the side of the electronic circuit **400**, and (3) from the output pins of the electronic circuit **400**. In this embodiment, since the worst effects on the bus signal transmission waveforms are caused by the lengths $LA_1 \sim LA_n$ of (1), reduction in (1) contributes greatly to settling the bus signal waveforms. The upper limit of the lengths $LA_1 \sim LA_n$ is determined to be in a range in which signal logic can be correctly transmitted by associated electronic circuits **400**, taking into consideration the effects of operating frequency and reflection etc. of the system bus **100** and the total extension of the system bus **100**, etc.

For example, a bus system employing 5v, or more specifically in a bus system with specifications of a bus propagation time of less than 11 ns, bus characteristic impedance of 60~100 Ω , electronic circuit input pin capacitance of less than 16 pF, and a maximum number of connected circuits being **10**, the lengths $LA_1 \sim LA_n$ are from) to 1.5 inches, but when the electronic circuits are packaged, wiring in the normal way is difficult.

Even when the maximum number of electronic circuits **400** are connected, the MOS switches **300** are disposed between respective electronic circuits and the system bus **100** with the lengths $LA_1 \sim LA_n$ being between 0 and 1.5 inches so as to secure the HIGH level and LOW level of the signal waveform within the bus propagation time. In this case, the electronic circuits do not need to be on the same backplane as system bus **100**. By making the input pin capacitance of the MOS switch **300** small compared to the electronic circuits, it is possible for the method of the present invention to have a larger number of connections than can be achieved by simply connecting electronic circuits **400** to the system bus, even in the case where the electronic circuits are for expansion devices on a different backplane.

On the other hand, by arranging the MOS switches **300** close to the system bus and satisfying the bus specifications, the electronic circuits **400** can be wired with lengths $LB_1 \sim LB_n$ of more than 1.5 inches, but preferably less than 10 inches.

As has been described above, by distributing the MOS switch **300** between the electronic circuits **400** and the system bus **100** within a range taking the effects of reflection into consideration, signals output from the electronic circuits are output onto the system bus **100** by way of transfer gates **310** of the MOS switches **300**, and at this time signals on the system bus are mainly effected by reflections from both ends of the system bus **100** and from the input terminals of other MOS switches **300**. Multiple reflections of bus signals is suppressed by making the lengths $LA_1 \sim LA_n$ short, and accordingly the bus signal waveforms are converged and settled rapidly, and high speed bus applications are possible.

INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY

According to the present invention, an input output device capable of connecting and disconnecting active lines can be realized in which insertion or removal of an expansion device does not upset transmission of bus signals for other electronic circuits on a bus capable of high speed operation, because disabling is ensured at the time of insertion or removal using transfer gates of small signal delay in the input/output circuit.

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Further, according to the present invention, it is possible to realize an input/output device capable of connecting and disconnecting active lines in which there are multiple power supplies, the effects on a power supply at the time of insertion or removal are reduced, and the operation of electronic circuits that are not involved in the insertion or removal does not become unstable.

Still further, the input/output device of the present invention can be applied to a high speed bus because the bus operation waveform is rapidly settled by arranging inputs of transfer gates at positions that are a fixed short distance from a bus constituted by the input/output sections of electronic circuits.

We claim:

1. An expansion device comprising:

a plurality of electronic circuit networks;

at least one long pin for providing power from an external power source;

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a diode for connecting said plurality of electronic circuit networks to said long pin; and

at least one short pin for providing power from an external power source to said plurality of electronic circuit networks connected to said long pin.

2. An expansion device according to claim 1, wherein the long pin is connected to a first external power source and wherein the short pin is connected to a second external power source.

3. An expansion device according to claim 1, further comprising a resistor coupled between said diode and said electronic circuit networks.

4. An expansion device according to claim 2, further comprising a resistor coupled between said diode and said electronic circuit networks.

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